

COUNTRY DATA: POLAND: Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

Poland is an ancient nation that was conceived near the middle of the 10th century. Its golden age occurred in the 16th century. During the following century, the strengthening of the gentry and internal disorders weakened the nation. In a series of agreements between 1772 and 1795, Russia, Prussia, and Austria partitioned Poland amongst themselves. Poland regained its independence in 1918 only to be overrun by Germany and the Soviet Union in World War II. It became a Soviet satellite state following the war, but its government was comparatively tolerant and progressive. Labor turmoil in 1980 led to the formation of the independent trade union "Solidarity" that over time became a political force and by 1990 had swept parliamentary elections and the presidency. A "shock therapy" program during the early 1990s enabled the country to transform its economy into one of the most robust in Central Europe, but Poland still faces the lingering challenges of high unemployment, underdeveloped and dilapidated infrastructure, and a poor rural underclass. Solidarity suffered a major defeat in the 2001 parliamentary elections when it failed to elect a single deputy to the lower house of Parliament, and the new leaders of the Solidarity Trade Union subsequently pledged to reduce the Trade Union's political role. Poland joined NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004. With its transformation to a democratic, market-oriented country largely completed, Poland is an increasingly active member of Euro-Atlantic organizations.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Central Europe, east of Germany.
Area	312,685 sq km
Climate	Temperate with cold, cloudy, moderately severe winters with frequent precipitation; mild summers with frequent showers and thundershowers.
Natural Resources	Coal, sulfur, copper, natural gas, silver, lead, salt, amber, arable land.
Total Renewable Water Resources	63.1 cu km (2005)
Freshwater Withdrawal	11.73 cu km/yr (13%/79%/8%)
Natural Hazards	Flooding.
Environmental Issues	Situation has improved since 1989 due to decline in heavy industry and increased environmental concern by post-Communist governments; air pollution nonetheless remains serious because of sulfur dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants, and the resulting acid rain has caused forest damage; water pollution from industrial and municipal sources is also a problem, as is disposal of hazardous wastes; pollution levels should continue to decrease as industrial establishments bring their facilities up to EU code, but at substantial cost to business and the government.

PEOPLE

Population	38,463,689 (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	Polish 96.7%, German 0.4%, Belarusian 0.1%, Ukrainian 0.1%, other and unspecified 2.7%

	(2002 census).
Religions	Roman Catholic 89.8% (about 75% practicing), Eastern Orthodox 1.3%, Protestant 0.3%, other 0.3%, unspecified 8.3% (2002).
Languages	Polish (official) 97.8%, other and unspecified 2.2% (2002 census).
Literacy Rate	99.8%
Major Infectious Diseases	Degree of risk: intermediate Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea Vectorborne disease: tickborne encephalitis <i>Note:</i> highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2009). HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate: 0.1%; note - no country specific models provided (2007 est.)
GOVERNMENT	
Type	Republic
Independence	11 November 1918 (republic proclaimed)
Constitution	Adopted by the National Assembly 2 April 1997; passed by national referendum 25 May 1997; effective 17 October 1997.
Legal System	Based on a mixture of Continental (Napoleonic) civil law and holdover Communist legal theory; changes being gradually introduced as part of broader democratization process; limited judicial review of legislative acts, but rulings of the Constitutional Tribunal are final; court decisions can be appealed to the European Court of Justice in Strasbourg; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations.
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	Potatoes, fruits, vegetables, wheat; poultry, eggs, pork, dairy.
Industries	Machine building, iron and steel, coal mining, chemicals, shipbuilding, food processing, glass, beverages, textiles.
Import commodities	Machinery and transport equipment 38%, intermediate manufactured goods 21%, chemicals 15%, minerals, fuels, lubricants, and related materials 9%.
Import Partners	Germany 28.08%, Russia 8.65%, Italy 6.5%, Netherlands 5.59%, China 5.27%, France 4.6%, Czech Republic 4.05% (2009).
Export Commodities	Machinery and transport equipment 37.8%, intermediate manufactured goods 23.7%, miscellaneous manufactured goods 17.1%, food and live animals 7.6%.
Export Partners	Germany 26.06%, Italy 6.84%, France 6.78%, UK 6.38%, Czech Republic 5.85%, Netherlands 4.14% (2009).
Per Capita GDP	\$17,900 (2009 est.)
Population below poverty line	17% (2003 est.)

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

COUNTRY: Poland

General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	76 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	10 years
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	\$17,803
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	18.9%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	79.7%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	83.9%
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	56.9%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	71%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	100%
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	<2%
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	8%
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	5%

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	94%
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	6%
Population without Access to Water (%)	0%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	10%
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	.01%
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	2,400
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	NA
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	<5%
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	61%
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	.1%
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	.1%
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	.1%
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	NA
Population without Electricity (%)	NA

Poland's Public Expenditure

